

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6659
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 17926

EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM SOCI CB
SUBJECT: REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA

REF: STATE 157953, BANGKOK 17849

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS INTERVIEW WITH CAMBODIAN REFUGEE,
SOURCE D. END SUMMARY

2. SOURCE D, ABOUT 50, ARRIVED IN THAILAND MAY 19, 1978, FROM
SISAPHON. HE HAD WORKED FOR 20 YEARS IN PHNOM PENH IN THE
GOVERNMENT CUSTOMS SERVICE. AFTER APRIL 1975, HE WAS FORCED TO
BECOME A FARMER IN BATTAMBANG PROVINCE. HIS ACCOUNT FOLLOWS:

3. QTE CONDITIONS OF LIFE IN DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA. I DOUBT
THAT MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE FORMER CAMBODIANS ARE STILL
ALIVE. I DOUBT THAT THE KHMER RACE WILL SURVIVE. THE PEOPLE
HAVE SO LITTLE TO EAT , ONLY PORRIDGE. BEFORE 1975, BATTAMBANG
PROVINCE COULD PRODUCE ENOUGH RICE TO FEED ALL CAMBODIANS AND
EXPORT SOME. NOW THE WHOLE COUNTRY CANNOT PRODUCE AS MUCH.
THERE ARE NO MEDICINES. THE PEOPLE ARE WEAK AND LISTLESS.

4. QTE ADMINISTRATION AND EXECUTIONS. FROM THE VERY START,
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THE KHMER ROUGE USED ABSOLUTE TERROR AND THE ACTUALITY OF DEATH
TO GAIN CONTROL OF THE COUNTRY. SINCE THEN PEOPLE DID NOT DARE
TO CRITICIZE THE KHMER ROUGE OR TO DO ANYTHING BUT WORK BECAUSE
THE RESULT WOULD BE CERTAIN-DEATH.

5. QTE ALL THE "NEW CAMBODIANS" ARE BEING ELIMINATED. BUDDHISTS,
INTELLECTUALS, ANTI-COMMUNISTS AS WELL AS FORMER SOLDIERS,

STUDENTS, AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, EVERYONE EVEN REMOTELY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE FORMER REGIME. I FLED BECAUSE THE KHMER
ROUGE SUSPECTED THAT I WAS A FORMER OFFICIAL AND WOULD CERTAINLY
HAVE KILLED ME SOONER OR LATER. I DID NOT DARE SPEAK TO MY
CHILDREN ABOUT MY DEPARTURE, BECAUSE THE KHMER ROUGE SPIES (SCHLOP)
ARE EVERYWHERE AND GREATLY TO BE FEARED.

6. QTE HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS AN ABSURDITY TO EVEN SPEAK OF HUMAN,
CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS IN CAMBODIA.
END QTE
O'DONOHUE

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NNN

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